

Parade Press Report Answer Key

Answers will vary. Look for:

- All five **W's** included: who, what, when, where, and why.
- A clear **headline** and **lead sentence** that capture attention.
- At least one **fictional quote** and use of **descriptive language**.
- Correct structure resembling a real news report (intro + supporting details).

Teacher's Guide

Purpose: This activity develops **informational writing**, **organization**, and **creative application of facts** through a Mardi Gras lens.

Teaching Tips:

- **Introduce the Format:** Review the structure of a basic news article-headline, lead, supporting details, and closing.
- **Prewriting Support:** Let students highlight the five W's from the bullet list before writing.
- **Differentiation:**
 - *Grades 7-8:* Allow sentence starters or prompts like "Crowds gathered as..."
 - *Grade 9:* Encourage the use of journalistic tone and varied sentence structure.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Play background jazz to simulate a newsroom atmosphere.
 - Have students read their headlines aloud in a "breaking news" style presentation.
- **Extension Activities:**
 - Invite students to design a front-page layout with their article and a Mardi Gras-themed image.
 - Challenge them to write a short follow-up article about how much money was raised for art programs.